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N. E. FARMER.

IMPROVED AGRICULTURE.

At the late meeting at Bristol of the British Royal Agricultural Society, Mr Smith, of Deanston, the author, as he may be called, of the Improved System of Thorough Draining and Subsoil Plowing, was called upon to explain at large, his views and practice in a public lecture. This was done without writing, and has been reported at large in the agricultural press. We have condensed it from the Mark Lane Express, but have taken care to omit nothing that is essential to a full understanding of the subject. It is full of important matter, and will be read by every intelligent farmer with the deepest interest. The results of this system are beneficial in the most extraordinary degree, and bid fair almost to revolutionize the husbandry of Great Britain.—*Genesee Far.*

LECTURE BY MR SMITH, OF DEANSTON, ON DRAINAGE.

Delivered before the Members of the Royal Agricultural Society, at Bristol, July 13, 1842.

After apologizing for the alteration of the time of lecturing, Mr Smith proceeded:

The dryness of land is of great importance: in fact, the dry condition of the soil is the foundation of all good husbandry. It is beneficial to the working of the soil; to the after growth of plants. There is scarcely any labor of agriculture which is not facilitated by the dryness of the soil. If we find a tree stronger than his neighbor, we shall find that there the soil is deep and in a dry condition. If we see a stronger and darker colored herbage growing on the hill side, there the soil will be found deep, and in a dry condition. There is not one of the various soils of the United Kingdom which will not be much improved by being placed in a dry condition, if they are not so by nature. Even on a subsoil of gravel or sand, the introduction of the thorough-drain system would be beneficial; but as there is only a small portion of that sort of soil in this country, the greater part being super-imposed upon a wet soil, it becomes of the first importance to improvement in agriculture that means be taken to render the soil dry. Many attempts have been made with that view, but until the introduction of the thorough-drain system, there was not the power of draining land, on whatever subsoil resting, and rendering it completely dry. The purpose of this lecture is to illustrate the principles on which this system acts; then, to show the advantages in carrying on the different processes with respect to the various crops; and then to explain the modes employed to render this drainage effective.

[Mr Smith here illustrated by a diagram, his method of thorough-draining; the soil, the subsoil, the drains, &c., being represented.]

In referring to two lines, representing the direction of drains, he had drawn one at a greater inclination than the other, to show the advantage of making the drains deeper than they generally were. The prevailing practice was to make the drains two feet deep, but he preferred an additional six inches—it was of great importance to allow the water to go off as quickly as possible, and this advantage was secured by cutting the drain to a greater declination. People suppose that at a great depth water would not go off at all; but this was a mistake. Another advantage from a deep drain was, that it allowed the whole bank of soil to become completely dry, and it consequently required a very heavy rain to wet it. The action of the atmosphere too, required to be taken into account. He would not enter upon the chemical question, but it was well known that soils were much improved by the action of the air, and this advantage could only be secured after the water was withdrawn.

To render the field completely dry, a great number of drains should be cut, and they should be laid off in parallel lines beginning at the highest side of the field. This secures a thorough drying. When the lines run parallel, much greater effect is produced than when they are drawn across. When drawn across, the drains may catch the water, but it does not run off so readily.

The distance at which the drains should be placed, will depend on the soil. If the field has been subsoiled, the plow will form artificial channels in the soil below. If it is a stiff soil, it will keep long upon the surface: the more free the soil is, the greater tendency it has to allow the water to pass; so that on a stiff soil, such as the stiffer clays, taking into account the nature of the subsoil and the soil itself, about the same drain will serve on all soils. The distances are generally from 15 to 20 feet: in some soils individuals have put in the drains at 12 feet; but that is, in some degree, throwing away money. From observations which I have made myself on all sorts of soil, I recommend about 16 to 20 feet as the distance from one drain to the other.

The way I usually proceed in draining is, first to find a good bottom-level to run the drain into. In some parts of the country there is difficulty in getting an open level to carry off the whole water of the district; but by a proper engineering it may be accomplished in most situations; because it is found that if proper channels are executed, a larger quantity of water will be discharged with a very small fall. In an endeavor to carry off water, I found that in a drop of four inches in a mile, 30 feet wide and 6 feet deep, I could discharge 300 tons of water per minute; which is much more than would fall in a very extensive district indeed. So that if means be taken to carry off the main level, a fall may be had.

I should make the great main drain, if possible, about four feet deep—three feet six inches will do; but in order to have a drop from the one drain into the other, I make the main drain four feet deep, the receiving drain three feet deep, and the parallel drains two feet six inches. When there is any rise in the ground, or any hollows over which the water cannot very well flow, it is necessary to make a cad's drain. That should be made about six inches deeper than the other drains which fall into it; then running on, it discharges itself into the main drain.

As to the manner of executing the drains, various modes are recommended, and on looking to land which has been drained a great many years, where the draining has been performed carefully, all the different modes employed for the purpose of keeping the drains open, have been effective. A great deal of the want of effect in the duration of drains, has been owing to bad execution. In some instances fagots have been introduced for the purpose of preserving the openings of the drain, and these have been found to continue and to preserve the openings in a perfect state for nine—in some instances, for twenty years.

In Scotland, the peat-top is frequently used to form the tiles for drains. It does well in clays which are pretty stiff, but not so well in softer soils. In some sandy soils, the sides not being sufficient to resist the pressure of the top, the tile gradually sinks down and closes up the drain.

Another mode of filling drains is by stones broken into the usual size for making roads. Much has been said against the use of this sort of filling, but when properly executed, the work is as durable as can be required. Where stone can be had, and tiles are expensive, I should prefer it to the tiles; it prevents any vermin from travelling in the openings of the drain, such as rats and mice, which do a great deal of mischief. The great point is, to be careful in covering over at the tops. As soon as wet comes, the sand and other materials sifts down into the stones, and they are choked up. I have found drains carefully executed, completely destroyed in the course of a couple of years. If drains are so packed that the water falls down on both sides, the parts overlapping each other, there is no opening whatever for the sand to find its way down. If drains are carefully cleared in this manner, I will warrant their duration for almost any period of time. I have executed myself about 130 miles of drain in this way, and have had them all filled with stones; many of them have been done 15 years, and there has not been a single instance of failure.

A gentleman inquired the nature of the soil in the case alluded to.

Mr Smith replied, both on a gravel and clay soil. Many persons have asked whether or not the drains would be choked up in particular positions. I have always asked them what position they referred to, and have opened it up that they may see; and in no instance have I found a single drain choked up. I have the drains of 100 acres all discharged into one pond, provided for the purpose of seeing how much deposit came from the drain; and although we have had heavy rain, I have never seen the water in the pond tinged as if there was much soil in it. I can, therefore, safely recommend stones as a sufficient drainage; and in many parts of the country it is much cheaper than tiles.

The next filling used for preserving the opening of drains, is the drain-tile. These are usually

made of clay and burnt. They are very handy and useful; and where stones are not to be had they are to be preferred. But there are districts where the clay-tile cannot be procured at any reasonable price. Lord James Hay has recently discovered a method of making them of concrete stones cemented by lime; in most instances they will come considerably cheaper than the brick tile, and, if executed on the ground, where they will not have to be carried far, the breakage will be found to be very little, and they will prove to be durable. The cement made of lime is more lasting when covered up than if exposed to the atmosphere.

There are two other modes of making drains—peat earth has been cut into a shape somewhat like a hollow wedge; and a sort of instrument has been made for the purpose of cutting peat earth into the form of the tile, so as to produce an opening not liable to the objection of the wedge, which frequently sinks and pulls up the opening. A stone is frequently used to lay the concrete tile upon, and prevent its sinking. It is also made of concrete.

Many persons have expressed the opinion that, in some of the very stiff clays, drains of this sort would not be efficacious, and that the application of the subsoil plow after the draining would have no good effect. With the view of showing the beneficial results both of draining and subsoiling, I have brought some specimens of different clays, in order to show what improvement can be made. Here is a piece from the Pass of Stirling. This kind of soil has been cultivated from a subsoil, and has been known to produce excellent crops of Swedish turnips. Here is another very hard clay from Yorkshire.

A gentleman inquired how long after the subsoiling the land assumed a different character.

Mr Smith.—Almost immediately—in the very first year. It requires some years before it comes adapted for a turnip soil. I have a specimen of some soil which twenty years ago was so extremely stiff from the alluvial deposit in the Pass of Stirling, that it required to be broken with large mallets, to reduce, mechanically, the great lumps of soil. Thorough draining or subsoiling was never thought of till about twenty years ago, when this land was first drained; and now they get from it splendid crops of turnips, and in almost any season.

A gentleman wished to be informed of the nature of the soil in Mr Smith's farm.

Mr Smith.—It varies. In some parts it is sandy clay, and in others, clay perfectly impervious to water. When I first began to subsoil, there was not more than three or four inches of active soil, properly so called, for growing plants; after a labor of about fifteen years, I have now an active soil of *sixteen inches*, and can turn over that now in any part of the farm.

How near are the drains in order to produce that result?

Mr Smith.—Twenty feet. I think a distance of about eighteen or twenty feet from drain to drain, is a proper distance for almost any subsoil. I shall now proceed to detail the application of the subsoil plow.

When I began to cultivate my own farm, although I had put in the drains, I found they were not so efficacious as expected, and I then began to think of stirring up the subsoil, which gave rise to the idea of the subsoil plow. I thought I must construct an instrument which would execute the work with the least possible power. I made my plow strong, and of that form to which the least resistance would be opposed, at the same time taking care to have sufficient power fairly to stir up the soil.

I will here explain the principle of the subsoil plow. The great principle is, that there are many subsoils, which, though capable of being converted into a good soil, yet if brought up and mixed with the active soil, will so far deteriorate it as to make it for some time sterile. The great point is to stir up the subsoil, still retaining the good soil on the surface. Stirring up the subsoil would, in the first place, very much facilitate the escape of the water in the drains; and in consequence of the passage of the water through the stirred up subsoil and the attendant admission of air, it would be so acted upon as to be converted into good soil, while at the same time, have all the advantages of working the active soil as before.

Upon the application of this principle, I have been successful in every instance. The process of applying the subsoil plow is this: a common plow goes along first, and removes a furrow of the active soil. After that the subsoil plow passes along below, and scarifies the subsoil to the depth of from twelve to sixteen inches, in some instances eighteen inches. This is continued furrow after furrow, the plow going first to lay the active soil on the part already opened up; then the plow comes a second time and takes off a furrow from another part of the soil, and places it on that which is already scarified.

As to the proper period for applying the subsoil plow, in places where the drains have much effect, it may be applied the following year; but in clay soils it is important to give the clay sufficient time to dry, and to have it in a friable state; because, in the application of the subsoil plow, when clay subsoil has been recently drained, and it is not sufficiently dry, more harm is done than good; the clay being worked in a wet state is almost prepared for making bricks. If we once work it in that state, it is a long period before it recovers its friable property again. Therefore, in soils rather free, the subsoil plow may be used the second year after the drainage.

The proper time to execute drains is the summer season; you can then get it much more tidily done, and the drains are prevented from running. In many places there are little sandy veins and portions of running sand, which are very apt to fall in before the drains are covered up. In the winter season this is almost sure to be so; you may be taken with frost, which draws off the adhesion of the earth, so that it falls down and fills up the drain. It is best to execute them in grass land before it is broken up for cropping, otherwise it is too soft. Executing it therefore in the summer season on the lee, produces very little loss, because the growth of the grass in the after part of the season will be so much increased by the execution of the drains, that you will be repaid for the time lost for the use of the pasture during the time the drains were in process of execution. After the drains have been completed, take a crop from the land, and if the land has been pretty good, it will, perhaps, afford two crops; at all events, one crop should be taken; that will pass over one summer before the subsoil is to be plowed. During this season, the earth between the two surfaces has time to dry; it is more friable, and the subsoil plow will be more efficacious in stirring it up. It often happens that there are stones in the soil, which must be removed before you can proceed with good husbandry; and it will be found that, in consequence of the contraction of the soil, they have become in some degree loose, and will be turned out very easily by the subsoil plow. In many instances we have stones exceeding 200 lbs. weight, which are turned out very easily by the subsoil plow with four horses.

With regard to the direction in which the subsoiling ought to be carried, I should say at right angles with the drains: you thereby form channels from the centre to the side, in all directions. In that manner you form artificial channels from the centre of the ridge into the drain; these may partially close up, still there is an openness given to the subsoil, which will permit the water to pass freely.

Having thus applied the subsoil plow to stir up the subsoil, the after cultivation may be the common rotation of the country, such as the farmer thinks suitable. When agriculturists have subsoiled their land, they should lay down the land flat on the surface, without any ridges or furrows. Nothing is more injurious to the land than ridging it up. In the old modes of draining, it was quite necessary to have ridges and furrows; but now, when land is thoroughly drained, there is no occasion for it, and it is hurtful; because when water falls on a rounded-off surface, it immediately begins to sink away to the lower level, and the water which has fallen on the tops and middle parts of the ridges is added to the water on the side, which thus has to bear a great deal more than its own proportion of water; the water carries portions of the soil along with it, and the cracks are constantly filling up by the running of the sand from the higher part of the ridge to the lower part. When a field is laid down with ridges and furrows, especially on stiff land, a great part of the best of the land runs down into those furrows, and is deposited in large quantities at the bottom of the ridge, thereby doing a material mischief. If laid in a flat form you get rid of this evil, and obtain this advantage—that if the water is beneficial to the soil, which it certainly is, you have that benefit equally distributed; every part receives its own water, and the benefit which the water can give.

A peculiar change takes place in any subsoil—it does not matter what composed of—after it is plowed. This change begins to take place immediately, and the soil gradually goes from the state in which it was before to that of a mould. If you examine a soil which has become mould, it is of a peculiar structure. It appears as if all the particles were connected together, and it seems to have some attractive properties, by gathering together in that way. Vacuities for the air are thus formed, and there is a tendency to absorb and retain as much moisture as is useful to the plant. If filled entirely with moisture, it is injurious to the plant, but if a certain quantity, becomes beneficial; and when a great depth of soil is attained, there is great advantage indeed, in either a wet or a dry season. In a wet season the water flows away, leaving the soil in a dry state; but in consequence of the mouldering state in which the soil is, it is retentive of moisture, and there is a great magazine of water preserved in soil for a dry season. Being covered by the active soil, the drought may penetrate a few inches, but in consequence of the lower part of the soil being covered with this upper stratum, it is defended from the extreme action

of the rain, and a very dry atmosphere. It will be found that in soil so treated and converted into this mouldy condition, in dry seasons sufficient quantity of moisture will be retained for the use of the plants, which will grow vigorously when land in the same neighborhood is completely dry.

I do not think that it is possible to drain land too much, from the fact that the mould becomes an excellent magazine for the retention of moisture. A circumstance took place in regard to this in my own district, in 1826—a very dry season. In that year there was so long a period of dry weather, that the pond was dried up, and there was a great deficiency of crops. I had a field which had been treated in the way I have explained, and I had a crop of hay on it. The hay in the country round produced not above half a crop. On this field, which I had deepened to 16 inches, I had a splendid crop. A proprietor of land in the neighborhood, one of the old school, resisted to the utmost with regard to the result of thorough draining and subsoil plowing. A person occasionally employed by me was also engaged in doing work for him. He had asked about this hay, and the old gentleman was rather puzzled at the state of the crop, and exclaimed, that he really thought I had drained my land so much that I should have no crop at all. He was immediately after this completely wedded to the system, and from that day he has been vigorously engaged in introducing thorough draining and subsoiling all over his estate; and he is now having a great deal of poor soil, on a very rich and productive estate, treated in the same way. Taking the average of that gentleman's estate, he now produces double the quantity of corn that he used to obtain. He now grows potatoes where he could not grow them before; and on the old clay he produces regular and large crops of turnips.

An inquiry was made as to whether there was any land where subsoil plowing would be successful without thorough draining.

Mr Smith.—I am much obliged for that hint. Many persons have thought that plowing the subsoil might do without thorough draining, but there are few instances indeed in which that application of the plow will not be hurtful instead of being beneficial. If you have a retentive bottom which will not allow the moisture to pass away, it must remain till absorbed by the atmosphere; therefore the greater the chambers for receiving rain, so much the longer will the land be kept in a wet state. The practice which now prevails in the English clay districts of plowing with a shallow harrow, has arisen from the experience of ages, which has taught them that on such soils you cannot cultivate wheat if you plow a deep furrow, because you make just so much the larger chambers to receive water. Even in open soils I would not recommend the application of the subsoil plow till the thorough draining had been executed.

A gentleman asked if it was necessary to repeat the subsoil plowing.

Mr Smith.—It may not be essentially necessary to repeat the subsoil plowing, but it is beneficial. I repeat the plowing at every shift, every time I break up my fallow.

Is it always done in the same line?

Mr Smith.—Generally: sometimes I have done it obliquely.

Did you ever try it diagonally?

Mr Smith.—Yes; perhaps it is better to do it in that way, according to the drop of the land. The first idea I had was to use the subsoil plow; then I thought I might use the trench plow, and that I might, the next shift, turn up the whole soil, so as to have a complete mixture. In some fields, where the soil was of a better quality, and there was more vegetable matter, I had excellent crops; on the poorer soils, I found that by bringing up the subsoil to mix with the active soil, after the first shift, I did a great deal of mischief. I found, especially with regard to grass, that I could not get that growth of plants which I had before; immediately on observing that, I resolved a third time to go over those fields, and that I would again use the subsoil plow; I have now fallen into the practice of doing so every time I turn. I took up at the first shift, perhaps about three inches, even in the poorest field; the next time three inches more; and by that means I gradually attained a thorough depth of soil to the extent of sixteen inches. On my own farm I have a thorough depth of sixteen inches, but that is in consequence of using a trench plow on the second shift; and in some fields that was unsuccessful. If I had then the experience I now have, I would use the subsoil plow at each shift; instead of going down the whole sixteen inches, I would only take up perhaps three inches the first time and three the next, till I had completed the depth of sixteen inches.

A Gentleman.—In draining in the summer season, how do you get the level?

Mr Smith.—By the spirit-level, of course.

A Gentleman.—The great object would be to get it done cheap; but it would be much more expensive if done in the summer.

Mr Smith.—No doubt; but if I had the choice of executing drains during the winter, at an expense of 50 per cent. less than the summer, I would prefer doing it in summer. The efficiency is of far more importance than the expense.

A gentleman inquired whether the rocks under the stratification were horizontal or perpendicular.

Mr Smith.—There was very little stratification at all. I am aware of what has been stated with regard to destroying the pans, such as are placed upon gravel; but thorough draining may be applied with advantage to sand or to gravel; and though in the gravel the opening must be at a considerable distance, and consequently the water will be long in finding its way out, if it gets into the channel it will go off easily. These dry soils retain moisture a great deal too long for agricultural purposes. When agriculturists have determined on draining a field, they should resolve to drain it wholly, otherwise they are only throwing the expense away.

FARMING ON A LARGE SCALE.

What large tracts of land are sometimes tilled in the Western States under the name of farms, may be judged from the following article which is found in the Peoria Press:—

An Illinois Prarie Farm.—Mr Isaac Underhill, of Peoria, has a farm about 18 miles above this place, at Rome, on the Illinois river, which is the largest, or at least one of the largest in the State.

The first field of this farm that meets your view in approaching Rome, consists of five hundred acres, under what is called a Virginia or worm fence, eight rails high. Three hundred acres of this are in wheat, principally put in last fall, and which was sowed upon the sod, last year for the first time broken up by the plow. From such ground a full crop is never expected, before the large furrows, which had lain in a solid body of matted roots for ages, are thoroughly decomposed and pulverized, which cannot take place in a few months. The wheat is now (July 9th,) "white for harvest;" and it is estimated that parts of the field will yield twentyfive, and some thirty bushels to the acre, though the whole may not average much over twenty bushels. The difference in the crop is mainly attributable to the time and manner in which the plowing and sowing were done. The balance of the field is in corn and oats.

The second field, which is nearest Rome, and separated from the first named, by the road leading from Northampton to that place, consists of two hundred acres, which is enclosed with a beautiful and excellent board fence. This was done at an expense of $1265, which was about the cost of the fence around the five hundred acres. This field contains wheat, rye, oats, and corn, and shows what the La Salle paririe can do when under full subjection to the hand of the cultivator. The wheat here presents a scene beautiful beyond description. It overtops the fence, which exceeds five feet in height; it is clean, well headed and even, and must produce thirtyfive bushels to the acre. A description of the rye and oats, would be such as might excite doubts of its truth in the minds of those who have never seen the crops of our prairie State. The corn, though fine, is not so well grown as it is at the same time of the year in ordinary seasons.

The third field, which lies north of the second, will be of mammoth size when completed, which will be in a very short time. Much of it is now under fence, broken up, and a part of it in corn. It will consist of sixteen hundred acres, all under one fence.

The whole farm comprises about two thousand three hundred acres, and has a straight line of fence on one side, three miles long.

Mr U., expects this fall to be able to put seven or eight hundred acres in wheat. Much of this will be in ground a second year under cultivation, and with an ordinary season the next year's crop of this and the sod wheat, or what will be put in new ground, may reasonably be calculated to yield at least, an average production of twentyfive bushels per acre.

The breaking or plowing of the prairie, cost Underhill $2,50 per acre by contract, and wheat sold here nearly all last winter at 75 cents per bushel. We add these prices to the preceding account, that the reader may form some idea, of what can be done in the way of prairie farming in Illinois.

Mr U. is now building two large barns, 30 by 50 feet, on the bank of the river, at Rome, where there is one of the best steamboat landings on the river. The first of these was raised last Saturday, and the frame of the other will be ready to go up in a short time.

Shoe Blacking.—Perhaps the best in the world is elder berries. Mash the berries with your hand in a large kettle of water; set them in the shade a few days, filling the vessel up with water. After they are cool, strain and wring them through a coarse cloth, and then boil down to the thickness of molasses. Put a small quantity with a feather on a brush, and rub the shoe till there is a fine gloss. The same will make good writing ink.—*Selected.*

APPLE MOLASSES.

Brother Farmers—Will you listen to me a few minutes while I tell you how to provide yourself with a first rate article, and one of prime necessity. You are probably in something of a haste, though I hope you will have your potatoes dug and safe in your cellar, for there are many things a farmer has to do to be ready for winter. It is just about election time also, and every farmer should manage so as to be able to drop in at the poll and give his vote for a good and true man; but do not, as many will, make the privilege of voting an excuse for spending a whole day at the tavern, imbibing "wet damnation."

If you are a married man, as I hope you are, for no other one has a consistent claim to the character of a good citizen, you know, or if you do not, your wife does, that it costs no trifling sum to provide sweetning for the family, while there is no possibility of living without it; and experience has fully shown me, that for many of the purposes of domestic cookery, apple molasses is far preferable to West India, while it is at the same time much cheaper.

I make little cider; my apples are worth more fed to my hogs than for cider; but I make a practice of selecting my sweet apples, those that furnish the richest, heaviest liquor, and make a cheese from them, using the cider thus obtained for making apple or quince preserves, boiling down for molasses, and keeping two or three barrels for drink, or ultimate conversion into vinegar. When new from the press, and before fermentation commences, that which I intend for boiling is brought to the house, and boiled in brass, to the proper consistence; taking care not to burn it, as that gives the molasses a disagreeable flavor, and taking off all the scum that rises during the process. The quantity to be boiled, or the number of barrels required to make one of molasses, will depend greatly on the kind of apples used, and the richness of the new liquor. Four or four and a half are generally sufficient, but when care is not used in making the selection of apples, five barrels may be necessary, but let it take more or less, enough must be used to make the molasses, when cold, as thick as the best West India. When boiled sufficiently, it should be turned into vessels to cool, and from them transferred to a new sweet barrel, put into a cool cellar, where it will keep without trouble, and be ready at all times.

Molasses made in this way will be pure, and possess a vinous or rather brandyed flavor, which makes it far superior to the West India for mince, apple, or tart pies, though where the apples used are very sour, a small quantity of imported molasses may be advantageously used. It is also excellent for making beer in summer, giving it a brisk flavor which common molasses will not. In short, there are but few uses to which molasses is applied, in which it will not be equal or superior to the other. Its cheapness should also be a decided recommendation with the farmer. The cider from which I manufacture my molasses, is worth at the press a dollar a barrel, and it is worth a dollar to reduce it to molasses, thus making the cost of a barrel of molasses, allowing four and a half barrels to be used, $5 50. The price of common molasses will average about 50 cents a gallon, or sixteen dollars a barrel—making a saving to the farmer, in the use of apple molasses, of about ten dollars per barrel. TRY AND SEE.

—*Farmers' Jour.*

For the N. E. Farmer.

REPORT OF SPEECHES AT THE HORTICULTURAL FESTIVAL.

MR PUTNAM—Dear Sir—In the Courier of Monday last, is a glowing description of the Horticultural festival of the previous week. From indisposition, I was unfortunately unable to attend it. I am fully aware of the great increase and *spread* of fruits, flowers and vegetables since the incorporation of this Society, and was somewhat sorry to see by some of the speeches that the credit *altogether* was given to it for the great variety of fruits *now* among us, and saying that only four or five kinds of cherries, about as many *pears*, and as many of other fruits were *previously* cultivated among us. This is a very great mistake, as will be proved before I close. It will be recollected by many, that Mr Preble, S. G. Perkins, J. Prince, G. Parsons, S. W. Pomeroy, and many others, from 1808 down to the incorporation of this Society, in 1828, had been collecting from all parts of Europe, and our Middle States, great quantities of fruit trees, &c. &c. I have seen lists of some of these gentlemen, in which above *one hundred and thirty* sorts of apple trees, *as many* of pears, forty of peaches, thirty of plums, ten of apricots, &c. &c. were in their collection at the latter date. Indeed it must be in the recollection of some now living, that at the very first exhibition of the Horticultural Society, one of the above gentlemen sent *fiftyeight* specimens of apples, (as will appear by referring to the New England Farmer of that period,) being a larger number than any person has since shown, (except from a nursery, for sale.)

It is very true, since the weekly and annual shows of this Society, all these things have become more circulated abroad. It must be well remembered that Mr Lowell had also received his large collection of pears from Mr Knight, and freely diffused scions from them.

The following named pears were also, before 1810, in high repute and in large quantities: St. Germain, St. Michael, Virgalieu, Chaumontel, Colmar, Crasanne, Bon Chretien, Broca's Bergamot. What has become of them? Can any person inform us the cause of their disappearance—or are they well replaced?

Of vegetables, also, it is believed that all now cultivated, were then; but the *spread* since has been much increased.

It is hoped the preceding remarks will not offend any one: the writer is far from intending to do it: this is only intended that *auld lang syne* may not be forgotten.

Yours, truly, N.

P. S.—It is hoped the Courier will copy the above, as it should follow the published account of the festival.

☞The above communication is anonymous: we know not whence it comes. We should have liked the writer's name; but we shall not withhold it because of our ignorance as to who its author is. We presume its facts are correct, and in the opinion of many they may be an important sequel to the report of the speeches at the horticultural festival; but we supposed that those *speeches* generally would not be regarded as of much authority or consequence, so far as their facts go;—they, like most speeches on similar occasions, were intended to please the company present, and were not supposed to be full and authentic histories of the cultivation of flowers and fruits among us.—ED. N. E. F

CYCLES IN THE SEASONS.

There is a belief prevalent among some aged people, that there are cycles in the seasons; by which is meant a return of the peculiarities of each season every nineteen or twenty years. Or, in other words, the season nineteen or twenty years ago, was similar to the present, and that nineteen or twenty years hence there will be also a similar one to the present.

We believe that the exact period is not yet agreed upon by those who are believers in cycles, but it does not vary much from twenty years.

We were reminded of this subject by reading the remarks of "Viator" in the Bangor Whig and Courier, who states that he found such a theory believed by some of the people in New Brunswick.

Some years since, a diary kept by old Parson Smith, of Portland, (Falmouth,) during many years before and after the Revolution, was published. In this, notes of the seasons were made, and we believe there is a summary of the seasons at the end of the book. It is now out of print, and we are not able to procure a copy. We should like very much to see an abstract of this diary, as far as the crops and the seasons are concerned, and venture to set brother Smith, of the Eastern Farmer, the task of making one. He can probably procure a copy of the work. Let us investigate this subject. If the belief is well founded, and it shall be proved that there is such a thing in nature as cycles of the seasons, it will be a valuable discovery. If, on the other hand, facts will not warrant this belief, and it shall turn out upon investigation that there is nothing to found such a theory upon, we shall do good by overthrowing it. The most marked instances of similarity, that can be found within the last forty years, we presume are 1816 and 1836. The former (1816) will always be known as the "cold season."

The year 1836 was not quite so disastrous, but yet it was a cold and comparatively fruitless year. Both wheat and corn came in very light throughout the Union. During the winter and spring following, immense quantities of foreign wheat were imported into the United States, and even a cargo of German wheat was brought up the Kennebec to supply the deficiency in this part of Maine. We do not now remember the particulars of other years so distinctly.

The drought of last year, (1841,) we believe did not have a prototype in 1821. It may be answered however, that droughts do not, as a general thing, affect a large extent of country at a time; that they are more local in their character, and are not felt, like temperature, over the whole length and breadth of the country throughout a whole season. We should be glad to hear from our correspondents on this subject.—*Maine Far.*

Good Farming.—"Sambo, is your master a good farmer?" "O yes, massa fuss rate farmer—he make two crops in one year." "How is that, Sambo?" "Why, he sell all his hay in de fall, and make money once; den in de spring he sell de hides of de cattle dat die for want of de hay, and make money twice."—*Selected.*

Who can beat this?—Mr Luke Bush, of this town, has an ox which he has fattened on his farm, that weighs 3000 lbs. We challenge any farmer in New England to produce an equal.—*Westfield Palladium.*

From the Maine Farmer.

PLOWING.

Mr Holmes:—I have heretofore, and from time to time given my ideas upon the important subject of plowing. One object to be accomplished by plowing, is to pulverize or loosen the soil. However skillful the farmer may be in other respects, and however liberal in the application of manure, if the soil be not properly pulverized, we cannot expect a good crop. One good plowing is better than five plowings poorly done. Let us be cautious that the plow be suffered to run to a proper depth. Let all obstructions to the plow be cleared away if possible, so that a continued unbroken furrow may be turned from one end of the field to the other. And again, we must teach our skillful mechanics that they may lack for patronage if they do not give to the plow its proper shape, construction, length, and turn.

The plowing in of crops to enrich the soil, is a subject that should claim the attention of our farmers. I will just give you Mr Editor, an account of my practice thus far in plowing in crops for manure. Last year I turned over an acre of sward and sowed grass seed (chaff,) I invariably prefer chaff, because if it does not vegetate the first year it will the second. This was the case with the acre of sward land above mentioned, the seed did not vegetate the first year but enough grass sprang up the present year, so that I obtained a tolerable crop. At this time the young clover is to be seen thick enough, which grew from seed sown last year. On the second day of the present month, I turned over one half acre of sward and sowed hay seed (chaff,) liberally, and harrowed with a light harrow lengthwise. While plowing the said field I was under the necessity of employing an unusual amount of patience. By the way I will just inform you that I do not own a breaking up plow myself, and have thought I should delay purchasing till I can find one of the right construction. I hired a plow of a neighbor, who I understand had purchased one of rather a superior quality, but ah! I was disappointed. The field was entirely clear of obstructions to the plow and nearly level, but I could not, although I employed my best skill to, turn the furrows perfectly well, but was under the necessity of employing a hand a few hours with a hoe, to right the furrows which were badly turned.

I shall probably resume this subject again hereafter, and I will endeavor to give you the result of my experiments. J. E. ROLFE.

Rumford, Sept. 1842.

PROBLEM IN MORALS.

Mr Editor:—I wish the following problem to be answered. "Do unto others as you would wish to be done by" is the command. A.'s dog killed B.'s sheep, which is known to both. B. walked over to his neighbor A.'s with his gun in his hand, where he found him in the door yard, the dog lay near him on the chips, well gorged with sheep meat. B. says to A., Sir will you be so obliging as to kill your dog? A. says he is a young dog, and I hope he may be broken of killing sheep. B. says, I cannot willingly purchase sheep for your dog's food, and moreover I will not; Sir, will you kill that dog? A. says, no, I think he may be broken of so bad a practice, upon which, B. turns round and shoots the dog dead on the spot, and says to A., now your dog will feast no more on my sheep, and you may help yourself, and went home.

Bid B. do as he would be done by? or, in other words, did he do right?—*Maine Farmer.*

Note—Neither of them did right. If A. wished to keep his dog he ought to pay B. the full value of his sheep which he killed, and then keep him secure in future. If A. would not do this, the civil law, which is, or ought to be founded on justice and moral right, points out to B. the proper course to pursue.—Ed. Me. Far.

HARVESTING POTATOES.

The potato crop, as far as we have had an opportunity to examine, is very good this year, both as it regards quantity and quality. Care should be exercised in the harvesting, in order to preserve the good qualities that they now have. There is danger of erring or either hand, by digging too early before they are fully matured, or by postponing it until the fall rains have saturated the earth, and the potatoes have become *water logged* and spoiled.

One great fault, however, is the exposing the potatoes too long to the warm sun. If it be possible, they should not be exposed to the light at all, but as this cannot be avoided, they should be allowed to remain exposed as little as they can be while securing them. Digging and putting them in a hole in the commen way, where they can be preserved at a uniform cool temperature until spring, preserves their good qualities remarkably well. In like manner if the cellar be warm, we have found it advisable to place sods over them while in the bin so as to prevent the action of heat as much as possible, and prevent the change which invariably takes place when not kept sufficiently cool.—*Maine Farmer.*

HOW TO BUTCHER A HEN.

A friend of ours, who has been for some years engaged in supplying poultry to the market dealers of that article, in Boston, wishes us to give the farmers, up East here, a lecture on the mode of *butchering* and preparing poultry for the market. And first—the way it shouldn't be done. You shouldn't chase your poultry all over the neighborhood, with boys and dogs, and finally club or stone the fowl to death. Then you shouldn't cut its head off and let it dance all over the door yard until it is dead. Then you shouldn't scald it to prepare it for picking easily. When picked you shouldn't cut the wings off. Then you shouldn't cut a great hole in the breast, in order to get the crop out, and another in the rear in order to get out its intestines and gizzard.

But if you want to prepare your poultry in the nicest manner for the Boston market, so that it shall bring the best price—First, fat them well, then let them go without eating for 24 hours previous to being killed. Then, when you kill them, instead of chopping their heads off, run a small penknife into the jugular vein by the side of the neck, *just under the jowls.* Then hold them while bleeding, and pick them immediately,—picking off all the wing feathers as well as the others, while warm. Then let the head remain on,—let the crop alone, but cut a small hole in the rear just large enough to take out the intestines. Do not remove the gizzard from its place, but if the fowl be very fat, you make a larger opening—turn the leaves out and fasten them with a small skewer. When prepared in this way, your poultry will be much nicer and entitled to a better price than if dressed in the old way.—*Ibid.*

BUTTER.

The great point in making good butter, and that which will keep, is the freeing it from all buttermilk; and if every thing else is well done, if this point is overlooked, good butter is impossible for any length of time. The mixture of milk in any degree with the butter, is sure to produce an unpleasant taste to the butter; and the entire freedom from this constitutes the grand secret of making good butter. There are many who think washing butter with water incompatible with retaining the rich flavor; but if the water is cold and pure, it is scarcely possible that anything should be washed way, the buttermilk which destroys the flavour of all butter excepted. Besides, the best butter in the world, and that which in all markets commands the best price, viz: Dutch butter, is invariably made in this way; and where the example has been followed by others, it has rarely failed of success. If any, however, doubt the propriety of washing butter, they may use any method they choose, provided the milk is separated perfectly. Perfectly free from the substance that causes it to assume the putrid taste of bad butter, it may be kept with almost as much ease as tallow. Solidity in packing, clean, sweet vessels, and a low temperature, will insure its keeping for any reasonable time. Let no one expect good butter, however, so long as coarse impure salt is used, or a particle of the buttermilk is allowed to remain in it.—*Domestic Annals of Butter.*

Starting Children in the World.—The following extract from the works of a living writer, is replete with sound philosophy and common sense. It is well worth the attention of parents.

"Many an unwise parent labors hard and lives sparingly all his life for the purpose of leaving enough to give his children a start in the world, as it is called. Setting a young man afloat with money left him by his relatives, is like tying bladders under the arms of one who cannot swim; ten chances to one he will loose his bladders and go to the bottom. Teach him to swim, and he will never need the bladders. Give your child a sound education, and you have done enough for him. See to it, that his morals are pure, his mind cultivated, and his whole nature made subservient to the laws which govern man, and you have given what will be of more value than the wealth of the Indies. You have given him a start which no misfortune can deprive him of. The earlier you teach him to depend upon his own resources, the better."

Tar for greasing wagons, we think an absurd article. In the hottest weather it soon gums up and becomes adhesive, and in cold weather is always so. Wherever iron axletrees are used *black lead* mixed with greese is best; or *flour* mixed with *lard.*—*Selected.*

An American Aloe, said to flower but once in one hundred years, is now in full bloom at Harden Grange, Yorkshire, the seat of W. B. Ferrand, Esq., M. P.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Boston, Wednesday, October 5, 1842.

ESSEX COUNTY CATTLE SHOW.

This was held at Andover on Wednesday last, and in most departments was an unusually fine exhibition. The day was fine, and the concourse of people was greater than we have witnessed in almost any past year. This fact speaks well for the cause of Agriculture in the county. It shows that the people are awake to the subject.

We are not, in Essex, stock raising farmers; and our show of animals, especially young animals, is not equal to those of most societies in the interior. Of bulls we have enough exhibited, and some of them are good—very good. Our milch cows, too, compare well with those of other places. But in young stock, generally, we are deficient. In swine we have sometimes done well, but the premiums are so small that they will not pay for the trouble of carrying the hogs to the place of exhibition. Last week very few were shown, and those all were from the town in which the show was held. One solitary lamb was the sole representative of the wool-bearing tribe. Our working oxen may have less beauty than those exhibited where stock is raised, but in point of size, training, and the useful qualities of working cattle, we have never seen those surpassed that appeared on the ground at Andover last week.

The show of fruits, flowers and vegetables was highly gratifying, as was that also of domestic manufactures.

But the part of the show in which we took most interest, was the plowing match. About twentyfive ox teams entered the lists—twelve, we think, were double teams—i e. had two yoke of oxen and a driver; and one had a yoke of oxen and a horse, with a driver. The others had each a single yoke of oxen, and the plowman drove. The land allotted to each double team was one-sixth of an acre; that to a single team one-eighth. The sward of the land was brittle, and besides many fast rocks, numerous small ones troubled the plowmen exceedingly. There was no opportunity here to show the speed, and power of the teams, but their training was well exhibited—and the strength and skill of the plowmen were brought to a severe test. The day was warm, and we never saw a more sweaty set of men than these five and twenty plowmen were, about the time of finishing their work. The work was well done by nearly every plowman there—excepting that the single teams generally did not plow deep enough. The Society require these teams to plow five inches deep. The plows were guaged so that in free and easy land, such as is usually taken for a plowing match, they probably would have run five inches deep or more; but here the furrows *looked* less than that. Would not the Society do well to require *single* teams to plow deeper—say 6 or 6 1-2 inches? They now encourage shallow plowing. The ground was so rocky that many of the teams were near an hour in finishing their work.

Besides the above, there were four horse teams, of two horses each, the plowman managing them. In this rocky land they did less well than the ox teams.

Of 28 plows used on the field, we noticed 15 made by Prouty & Mears, 10 by Ruggles, Nourse & Mason, 2 by Charles Howard, and one Pike plow. So many circumstances besides the merits of the plow itself, come into the account in determining who deserve the premiums for plowing, that the fact that the plows from one maker take either more or less premiums than those from another, is not decisive of their respective merits. This, however, is not a method of testing that should be entirely set aside, provided it be extended through several years and to the trials in several counties. Were committees to report the name of the maker of each plow used, there would soon be a record from which the comparative success of the plows could be learned. Such a report was made at Andover, by the chairman of the committee on double teams, J. W. Proctor, Esq. The work of each team, whether successful in obtaining a premium or not, was minutely described—and the report was vastly more valuable than any other we ever heard. We hope the example set by this committee will be copied in future years, and that all useful facts and hints will thus be put upon record.

One remark made by the committee on double teams, we were pleased to hear, viz: that the furrows turned by one of the plows, though laid flat, were cracked much. This the committee said, was not named as a fault—but in the opinion of some of them, it was an excellence. This opinion we think correct, and we were glad to hear it advanced.

The trial of working oxen we were unable to witness, as we were also the trial of plows. We learn that several made by Prouty & Mears, and several manufactured by Ruggles, Nourse & Mason, were entered for trial, and that the committee made some progress in their work, but were unable to complete it that day, and adjourned to Tuesday (yesterday) to finish their labors. We are glad that they show this disposition to do their work thoroughly. Had we have known in season that the work would be so faithfully performed by the committee, we would have furnished them with one of Howard's plows for trial by the side of the others.

The Howard plow has been successful at the Essex plowing match the last two seasons. Last year there were but two of this make out of the seven used by the single teams, and those two took the second and third premiums. This year two of Howard's only were found among the eleven drawn by single teams, and one of them took the first premium. These facts are certainly favorable to the Howard plow.

A good dinner for the occasion was provided under a tent, where two or three hundred partook—and among them were many ladies. Hon. L. Saltonstall, President of the Society, made an animated and appropriate speech. Hon. Daniel P. King, the Secretary, and C. A. Andrew, Esq., of Salem, made a few pleasant remarks—when the Society adjourned to the meeting house, and listened to a very good, practical address by Hon. Allen W. Dodge, of Hamilton. This address will be published in the Transactions of the Society, and then we shall willingly give it more extended notice.

This Society multiplies its benefits far beyond what is usual with other societies, by publishing annually in pamphlet form, all its transactions, and circulating them among its members and others interested in agriculture. We should do good service were we to influence other societies to copy the example of Essex in this respect.

THE CONNECTICUT FARMER'S GAZETTE.

This useful and good paper, edited by Joseph Wood, and published by Wm. Storer, Jr., at New Haven, Ct., has been changed from a weekly to a semi-monthly journal, at $1 per year. We like its appearance and wish it success.

APPLES.

The crop of these is abundant, though the fruit is more wormy than usual, and many varieties not as large and fair as in most seasons.

PIGS AND PORK.

We have heard that 1500 "passengers" came down from Albany on the Western Railroad on Friday last. They were brought at $8 per ton. These travellers do not make their appearance in our streets, but we presume that they exhibited themselves in Brighton on Monday. Not only bipeds, but the four-legged and bristled come from the Hudson to us in a night. Shoats will be low in our market, and pork too. 5 and 5 1-2 cents is as much as the dealers are willing to pay for our best northern hogs We cannot afford to raise for this.

We have no disposition to complain of rail roads—they are a *public* benefit; but many New England farmers will for some time suffer by competition opened to the New York and the more distant farmers. We shall be obliged to change in part our articles of production. Those which are perishable and difficult of transportation, must claim our chief attention.

CRANBERRIES.

We have recently spoken of these as very scarce in this vicinity. On Monday morning, we saw for the first time this year, a considerable quantity in the market. These were brought from the neighborhood of Providence, and sold by the quantity for $2 25 per bushel.

PLANTING FRUIT TREES ON THE SIDES OF HILLS.

Dodart first observed that trees pushed their branches in a direction parallel to the surface of the earth. If a tree stands on a steep, it pushes both towards the hill and towards the declivity; but on both sides it still preserves its branches parallel to the surface. As there is an attraction between the upper surface of leaves, and light, (says Dodart,) I am also persuaded, though not equally certain of it from experiment, that there is an attraction of the same nature between the under surface of leaves and the surface of the earth. This I consider the cause of the phenomenon.

I had long observed that the most fruitful orchards and the most fertile trees, are those planted on a declivity, and the steeper it is, though not quite a precipice, the more fertile will they prove.

It is well known that the spreading of trees always renders them fruitful. On a plain, however, they incline to shoot upwards; and therefore art is called in by skillful gardeners, and applied in various ways to check their perpendicular, and to promote their lateral growth. But this point, which can only be gained on a plain by art, is obtained on a declivity by nature. There a tree loses its tendency to shoot upwards, and in order to preserve its branches parallel with the surface, is constrained to put them in a lateral direction.

Hence an important rule in the choice of orchards and gardens.—*Selected.*

☞Thursday, November 24th, has been appointed for Thanksgiving in Massachusetts.

It is an unfortunate thing for fools, that their pretensions should rise in an inverse ratio with their abilities, and their presumption with their weakness; and for the wise, that diffidence should be the companion of talent, and doubt the fruit of investigation.—*Lacon.*

If there be a pleasure on earth which angels cannot enjoy, and which they might almost envy man the possession of, it is the power of relieving distress. If there be a pain which devils might pity man for enduring, it is the death-bed reflection that we have possessed the power of doing good, but that we have abused and perverted it to purposes of ill —*Ibid.*

THERMOMETRICAL

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, for the week ending Oct. 2.

Oct.	1842.	6 A.M.	12, M.	6, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	26	40	62	55	E.
Tuesday,	27	44	68	60	N. W.
Wednesday,	28	57	74	64	N. W.
Thursday,	29	50	62	52	E.
Friday,	30	43	59	56	S.
Saturday,	1	45	68	60	N.
Sunday,	2	56	72	59	N. W.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Oct. 3, 1842.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 820 Beef Cattle, 860 Stores, 450 Sheep and 1550 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.* We quote to correspond with last week, viz. a few extra $5 00. First quality, $4 50 a 4 75. Second quality, $3 75 a 4 25. Third quality $3 00 a 3 50.

Stores.—Two year old $7 a 12. Three year old, $14 a 20.

Sheep.—Ordinary lots 62, 75, $1,00, 1,12. Better qualities, $1,25, 1,62, 1,88, and 2,00.

Swine.—Lots to peddle 2 1-2 a 2 5-8 for sows, and 3 1-2 3 5-8 for Barrows. Old hogs, 2 3-4 to 3 1-2. At retail from 3 to 4 1-2.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $2 50 to 3 00 per bushel. Red Top, 40 to 50 cents. Clover—Northern, 00 to 12c.—Southern, 0 a 10 c. Flax Seed, $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 30 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $4 50 per bushel.

GRAIN. Duty, Corn, Rye and Beans, free; Barley 20 per cent.; Oats 20 per cent.

The market has been very languid throughout the week, and prices somewhat lower.

Corn—Northern, old, bushel 58 to 59—Southern, round yellow, old, 57 a 00—Southern flat yellow, new, 55 a 56—do. do. white do. 53 a 54—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley — a — —Rye, Northern, 65 a 68 —do. Southern, 60 a 62 — Oats, Southern, 27 a 28—Northern do. 30 to 31—Beans, per bushel 75 a 1 25.—Shorts, per double bush. — a ——Bran, — a —.

FLOUR. There has been an active demand for the article during the past week, and the sales of all descriptions are nearly 10,000 barrels.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $4 75 a 4 87 —do. wharf, $0 00 a 0 00 do. free of garlic, $4 75 a 4 87 —Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $4 62 a 4 75 —Fredericksburg, lowl'd 4 mos. $4 81 a 4 87 —Alexandria, wharf mountain, —0 00 a — —Georgetown, $5 00 a 5 50—Richmond Canal, $4 75 a 0 00 —do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, South side $0 00 a 0 00 —do. Country $4 75 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $4 81 a 0 00— do fancy brands $4 87 a 4 94 — Ohio via Canal, $4 75 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $0 00 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 75 a 3 00.

PROVISIONS. There is a considerable decline in Beef, packers being anxious to close their old stock, as new will soon be in the market.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $7 75 a 8 00—Navy—$0 00 a 0 00.—No. 1, 5 50 a 6 00—do Prime $4 00 a 5 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $11 0 a 00 00—do Clear $10 00 a 10 50 do. Mess, 7 50 a 8 00—do Prime $5 00 a 6 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $5 00 a 5 50 do. Cargo do. 0 a 0 00— —Clear do do $10 00 a 10 50— Butter, shipping, 6 a 8—do store, uninspected, 8 a 10—do dairy, 14 a 16,—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 7½ a 8 — do South and Western, 7 1-2 a 0 Hams, Boston, 6 a 7 — do Southern and Western, 4 a 6—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 3 a 4—do new milk, 5 a 6 1-2.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 8 cts. per pound, free. All whereof the value exceeds 8 cts. per pound, 32 per ct. ad. val. and 4 cts per pound.

There has been a moderate demand for most descriptions of this article during the week, at recent prices.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 37 a 40 c.—American full blood, do 35 a 37—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 35—Do. 1-2 do 30 a 32—1-4 and common do 25 a 28 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 25—Do. unwashed, 10 a 13—Bengasi do 8 a 10—Saxony, clean,—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—co. do. picked, 12 a 16—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 33 a 35—No. 1 do. do. do. 28 a 30—No. 2 do do do 20 a 22—No. 3 do do do 12 a 15.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

About all the receipts of the week have been taken at 8 a 8 1-2c. per lb.

1st sort Mass. 1842, lb. 8 a 0. 2d do. do. do. 6.

HAY, per ton, $16 to 18—Eastern Screwed $14 to 16

CHEESE—Shipping and 4 meal, 6 to 8c.—New 9 to 11.

EGGS. 12 a 16.

GRAPE VINES.

Isabella Grape Vines of proper age for forming vineyards, propogated from, and containing all, the good qualities which the most improved cultivation for over ten years has conferred on the vineyards at *Croton Point*, near Sing Sing, N. Y., are now offered to the public. Those who may purchase will receive such instructions as will enable them to cultivate the grape with entire success, (provided their locality is not too far north.) All communications, post paid, addressed to R. T. UNDERHILL, M. D., No. 400 Broadway, N. Y. will receive attention. He feels quite confident, that he has so far ameliorated the character and habits of the grape vines in his vineyards, and nurseries by improved cultivation, pruning, &c., that they will generally ripen well, and produce good fruit, when planted in most of the Northern, all the Western, Middle, and Southern States.

Oct. 5. 2w

LINNÆAN BOTANIC GARDEN & NURSERIES.

The new Catalogues (32d edition) of this establishment, with reduced prices, comprising the most extensive assortment of trees and plants in America, are now ready for distribution, gratis, and will be sent to all who apply by mail, post paid. They comprise the following:

No. 1—Fruit and Hardy Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, &c.
2—Bulbous and Tuberous rooted Plants, Double Dahlias, &c.
3—Green-house Trees, Shrubs and Plants.
4—American Indigenous Trees, Shrubs and Plants.
5—A Catalogue of Garden and Flower Seeds.
6—Do. do. do. in French.
7—A Catalogue of Double Dahlias, comprising the most splendid varieties.

BOOKS—Prince's Treatise on Horticulture, 50 cents.
Prince's do. on the Vine, $1 50.
Prince's do. on Fruits, Pomological Manuel, containing accurate descriptions, in detail, of about 800 varieties of Fruits, in 2 vols. $2 00.

The Fruit and Ornamental Trees are of fine size, and among which are several thousand Plums, of the choicest kinds, *grafted on Plum Stocks*, 8 to 9 feet high, at the low price of $6 per dozen. Cherries, 9 to 12 feet high, at $6 per dozen. Pears, 4 to 5 feet high, $34 per 100, and larger sizes, 50 cents each. Apples, $25 per 100. Peaches, $22 1 2 per 100. Isabella and Catawba Grapes, $3 per dozen. Orders with a remittance, or stating on whom to draw for the payment, will be promptly executed.

WM. K. PRINCE.

Flushing, L. I. Oct. 1st. 1842. 3w Oct.

TO BE SOLD,

Two pair of old Wild Geese—Two pair of old large Bremen Geese—Several Wild Ganders, of suitable age to match with the Native Geese,—and 30 full blooded Dorking Fowls. Inquire at the Braintree and Weymouth Toll House, Braintree. 3w Oct. 5

SITUATION WANTED.

A young man who understands Nursery, Flower and Kitchen Gardening, and Farming, in all its various branches, and who has had three years' experience in this country, wishes a situation. He will have no objections to going West or South. Can furnish the best reference. Address J. S. at this Office. Oct. 3, 1842.

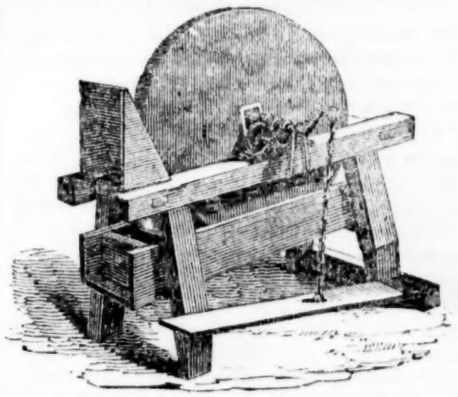
MUCK MANUAL.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., The Muck Manual for Farmers. By Dr S. L. Dana; price $1.

Boston, April 13.

LACTOMETERS—a simple instrument for testing the quality of milk. For sale by J. BRECK & CO.

GRINDSTONES, ON FRICTION ROLLERS.



Grindstones of different sizes, hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, is found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co., No. 51 North Market street.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH Mr. Howard's."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentysseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside: this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

April 20

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, &c.

The Proprietors of the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store No. 51 and 52 North Market street, would inform their customers and the public generally that they have on hand the most extensive assortment of Agricultural and Horticultural Tools to be found in the United States. Part of which are the following:

1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs.	100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels.
300 Common do. do.	150 " Common do.
200 Cultivators.	100 " Spades.
100 Greene's Straw Cutters.	500 " Grass Scythes.
50 Willis' do. do.	300 " Patent Snaiths.
100 Common do. do.	200 " Common do.
100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers.	500 " Hay Rakes.
50 Common do do.	200 " Garden do.
200 Willis' Seed Sowers.	200 " Manure Forks.
50 " Vegetable Cutters	300 " Hay do.
50 Common do. do.	500 Pair Trace Chains.
200 Hand Corn Mills.	100 " Truck do.
200 Grain Cradles.	100 Draft do.
100 Ox Yokes.	500 Tie up do.
1500 Doz. Scythe Stones.	50 doz. Halter do.
3000 " Austin's Rifles.	1000 yards Fence do.
	25 Grind Stones on rollers.

March 17.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Sagacity of a Cat.—We have heard and read—and we have witnessed—many instances of the *dog's* sagacity; but we had thought that cunning, treacherous *puss*, was always indifferent to every thing but her own ease—attached to *places* only, and not to *persons*. But a gentleman related to us the other day, a singular instance of the cat's fidelity to the family, and actual attachment to the children of the household where she domiciled.

A mother at Truro, recently, went out to the field to milk the cow just before nightfall, and her little child, of tender years, was inclined to follow her, but she ordered her back, and supposed she obeyed. When the mother returned to the house, however, the child was missing. She immediately sought after her in the neighborhood, unsuccessfully, and night set in to make the search more doubtful. The whole neighborhood and all the inhabitants of the north part of Truro were alarmed and the search extended; rain fell during the night, and the parents' solicitude was increased most painfully as their doubts doubled. Just after daybreak, one of the neighbors who had been in search, noticed the house cat making short excursions from the door towards the meadow, and returning with as strong expressions of anxiety to lead off some one on her track, as she was capable of making—such as mewing fondly and mournfully, standing on her hind feet, so as to attract attention, and then running off, always in the same direction. The neighbor was curious to see what puss meant, and followed her—she constantly running ahead and coaxingly returning again, and apparently pleased that she was followed. This process was repeated and followed, till, more than a mile from her home, down in the marshes, puss led her chase directly to the little wanderer, who was rescued and returned to her frantic friends in safety, not materially affected by the night's excursion. On tracing the child's footsteps made in the wet sand, it was ascertained that its feline deliverer had been its companion in its wandering during the night. Let us give Tab *some* credit for disinterested attachment and valuable sagacity.—*Barnstable Patriot.*

Anecdote of a Lawyer of Olden Time.—Henry Bull, one of the ancient Attorney Generals of Rhode Island, was put in youth to the carpenter's trade, at which he worked till he came fully of age, during which time he built him a house, and engaged in various mechanical employments. He determined, however, to study the law, having had a good common education for those days, and being much celebrated for his talents and wit. When he had made up his mind to practice law, he went into the garden to exercise his talents in addressing the court and jury. He then selected five cabbages in one row, for judges, and twelve in another row for jurors. After trying his hand there awhile, he went boldly into court, and took upon himself the duties of an advocate, and a little observation and experience there, convinced him that the same cabbages were in the court house, which he thought he had left in the garden; five in one row and twelve in another. He rose to great eminence in his profession in the courts of law and admiralty; and he was one of those peculiar men whose quaint "sayings" are ever remembered.—*Transcript.*

Animal Weather Prophets.—Spiders generally alter their webs once in 24 hours; and a rule has been deduced from this, by an attentive observer of these natural prognostics, whereby to foretell the coming change. If they thus alter their web between 6 and 7 in the evening, there will be a fine night; if between those hours in the morning, there will be a fine day. If they work during rain, expect fine weather; and the more active and busy the spider is, the finer will be the weather. If spider webs (gossamer) fly in the autumn with a south wind, fine weather. If garden spiders break off and destroy their webs and creep away, expect continued rain and showery weather. The leech also possesses the peculiar property of indicating approaching changes in the weather, in a most eminent degree. In fair and frosty weather, it remains motionless and rolled up in a spiral form at the bottom of the vessel; previous, however, to rain or snow, it will creep to the top, where should the rain be heavy, or of long continuance, it will remain for a considerable time; if trifling, it will descend. Should the rain or snow be accompanied with wind, it will dart about with great velocity, and seldom cease its evolutions until it blows hard. If a storm of thunder and lightning be approaching, it will be exceedingly agitated, and express its feeling in violent convulsive starts at the top of the glass. It is remarkable that however fine and serene the weather may be, and to our senses no indication of a coming change, either from the sky, the barometer, or any cause, yet if the leech shifts its positions, or moves about sluggishly, the coincident results will undoubtedly occur within twentysix hours.—*Selected.*

The Millerites' Tent.—The following is the description of the "big tent," which the Millerites have erected at Albany, N. Y., where they intend to reside until the end of the world, to take place, as some of them believe, on the 23d of April, 1843. The great tent or "markee," is 140 feet in diameter, covering an area of nearly half an acre. It is supported in the centre by a pole 100 feet high, and around the sides by stakes or uprights. It is open all around the bottom to let the air circulate freely within, and can be closed all round so as to make it tight, should the weather be unfavorable. It cost $700, and is said to be the best specimen in the tent-making line in the United States. Every part of the work about it is really beautiful. The interior is fitted up with rude benches or seats without backs. The ground is covered with straw, to protect the feet from damp. It is said that 3000 persons can be comfortably seated, but that 2500 only have been accommodated under it.—*Selected.*

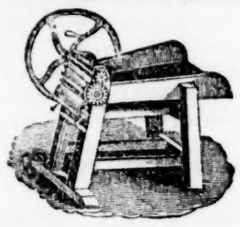
A Wheeling Article.—Going to dinner the other day, we saw a little codger, about two years old, sitting in a wheelbarrow and trying to wheel himself. It struck us that many people in this world are often caught in the same act; and we shall always think, hereafter—

When we see a business man trusting every thing to his clerks, and continually seeking his own amusement; always absent from his counting house, and yet expecting to get along, he's *sitting in a wheelbarrow and trying to wheel himself.*

When we see a professional man better acquainted with every thing else than his own profession, always starting some new scheme, and never attending to his calling, his wardrobe and credit will soon designate him as *sitting in a wheelbarrow and trying to wheel himself.*

When we see a farmer with an over abundance of "hired help," trusting every thing to their management; his fences down, implements out of repair, and land suffering for want of proper tillage; too proud or too lazy to off coat and go to work, he's *sitting in a wheelbarrow and trying to wheel himself.*

When we see a man busily engaged in circulating scandal concerning his neighbor, we infer that he is pretty deep in the *mud* himself, and is *sitting in a wheelbarrow, trying to wheel himself out.*—*Wheeling Gazette.*



GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

SAYLE'S GARDEN ENGINE.

This is a splendid article. It will throw a constant stream of water to the distance of 50 or 60 feet, with great force, and in case of fire would be a good substitute for a fire engine. The most perfect article for the purpose ever introduced. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 51 and 52 North Market street.

DRAFT AND TRACE CHAINS.

400 pair Trace Chains, suitable for Ploughing.
200 " Truck and leading Chains.
200 " Draft Chains. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

POUDRETTE.

For sale 200 Barrels Poudrette, at $2 per barrel, by J. BRECK & CO, 51 and 52 North Market st., Boston.
May 18.

TYE UP CHAINS.

Just received by 500 Chains for tyeing up Cattle.
These chains, introduced by E. H. DERBY, Esq. of Salem, and Col. JACQUES, for the purpose of securing cattle to the stall, are found to be the safest and most convenient mode of fastening cows and oxen to the stanchion.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within thirty days.

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